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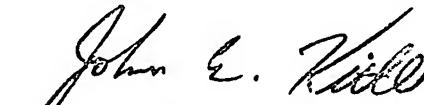
In re Application of :  
David C. Paul et al :  
Serial No.: 10/762,533 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: January 23, 2004 :  
For: Spine Stabilization System :

This is in response to the petition applicant filed on January 23, 2004 to make the above-identified application special under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.102(d).

Applicant has satisfied the provisions set forth in M.P.E.P. 708.02, VIII, thus the petition is **GRANTED**.

The application will be forwarded to the examiner for action on the merits commensurate with this decision.

Should there be any questions with regard to this letter please contact John Kittle by letter addressed to the Director, Technology Center 3700/2900, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or by telephone at (703) 308-0873 or by facsimile transmission at (703) 308-3139.

  
John E. Kittle  
Director  
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